

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A computer based method for maximizing printing speed of a print job, comprising the steps of:

locating pages in the print job;

creating an index of information relating to the locations of the pages in the print job;

determining if the pages in the print job meet a criteria based on the information in the index;

splitting the print job into a plurality of sets of pages if the pages in the print job meet the criteria; and

delivering said plurality of sets of pages to a plurality of printers, respectively, based on the information in the index.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the criteria in the determining step is quantity of pages; and wherein the splitting step comprises splitting the print job based on the quantity of pages and a number of printers.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the print job is split into a plurality of substantially equal sets of pages.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of locating the pages in the print job includes the step of scanning the print job for page markers.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein the step of creating an index of information includes the step of saving the location of the page markers identified during the scanning step.

6. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of scanning the print job prior to locating pages to determine whether the print job is of the type that is capable of being split.

7. The method of claim 6, further comprising the step of delivering the print job to a printer without proceeding to the locating step, if the print job is not capable of being split.

8. The method of claim 7, further including the step of determining the format of the print job.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein the format is postscript.
10. The method of claim 1, wherein the print job includes a document with a plurality of pages.
11. The method of claim 1, wherein the print job includes a plurality of copies of a document.
12. The method of claim 1, wherein the plurality of sets of pages is printed in duplex on a plurality of sheets.
13. A computer program that causes a computer to perform a method for maximizing printing speed of a print job, the method comprising the steps of:
 - locating pages in the print job;
 - creating an index of information relating to the locations of the pages in the print job;
 - determining if the pages in the print job meet a criteria based on the information in the index;
 - splitting the print job into a plurality of sets of pages if the pages in the print job meet the criteria; and
 - delivering said plurality of sets of pages to a plurality of printers, respectively, based on the information in the index.
14. The computer program of claim 13, wherein the criteria in the determining step is quantity of pages; and wherein the splitting step comprises splitting the print job based on the quantity of pages and a number of printers.
15. The computer program of claim 13, wherein the print job is split into a plurality of substantially equal sets of pages.
16. The computer program of claim 13, wherein the step of locating the pages in the print job includes the step of scanning the print job for page markers.
17. A computer used to improve printing speed of a print job in a computer system, comprising:
 - a first component for locating pages in the print job;
 - a second component for creating an index with information relating to the locations of the pages in the print job;

a third component for determining if the pages in the print job meet a criteria based on the information in the index;

a fourth component for splitting the print job into a plurality of sets of pages if the pages in the print job meet the criteria; and

a fifth component for delivering said plurality of sets of pages to a plurality of printers, respectively, based on the information in the index.

18. The computer of claim 17, wherein the criteria is quantity of pages; and wherein the fourth component comprises a component for splitting the print job based on the quantity of pages and a number of printers.

19. The method of claim 17, wherein the print job is split into a plurality of substantially equal sets of pages.

20. The computer of claim 17, wherein the component for locating the pages in the print job includes a component for scanning the print job for page markers.

21. A system coupled to a computer network for printing a print job sent by a user connected to the network, the system comprising:

- a. a plurality of printers; and
- b. computer coupled to the printers for improving printing speed of the print job; the computer comprising:
 - i. a first component for locating pages in the print job;
 - ii. a second component for creating an index with the locations of the pages in the print job;
 - iii. a third component for determining if the pages in the print job meet a criteria based on the information in the index.
 - iv. a fourth component for splitting the print job into a plurality of sets of pages if the pages in the print job meet the criteria; and
 - v. a fifth component for delivering said plurality of sets of pages to the plurality of printers, respectively, based on the information in the index.